

We are Purpose Driven

Comstock Communicator

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

JANUARY 2011

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What's New in our Library

MOVIE:

"Loving Leah" - A handsome Washington D.C. doctor and a young New York woman fall in love at an unusual time . . . after they are married! When Jake's brother dies unexpectedly, Jake is stunned to learn that under an ancient Jewish law, he must either marry Benjamin's childless widow to carry on his brother's name, or go through a ceremony where he must deny his brother's existence. Unwilling to do that, Jake impulsively suggests to Leah that they get married and maintain a strictly platonic relationship . . . Those of you who just finished the "Book of Ruth" study with Joanne will recognize the "Kinsman Redeemer" principle and will be especially interested in seeing this concept played out in a contemporary setting.

BOOKS:

Here Burns My Candle by Liz Curtis Higgs - Lady Elizabeth Kerr is a keeper of secrets. A Highlander by birth and a Lowlander by marriage, she honors the

old ways, even as doubts and fears stir deep within her. Her husband, Lord Donald, has secrets of his own, well hidden from the household, yet whispered among the town gossips. His mother, Lady Marjory, hides gold beneath her floor and guilt inside her heart. Her many regrets, buried in Greyfriars Churchyard, continue to plague her. One by one, the Kerr family secrets begin to surface. A timeless story of love and betrayal, loss and redemption, flickering against the backdrop of eighteenth century Scotland.

Solemnly Swear by Nancy Moser-Patti McCoy, a kitchen worker at a local resort, is accused of killing her boyfriend, the restaurant's maitre d'. But was she simply in the wrong place at the wrong time? It's up to the jury to decide. Each member comes from a different background, but one in particular has a lot at stake by being on this jury. Her husband was actually the last person to see the victim alive. The circumstantial evidence against

Patti, however, is piling up and the jury - although torn - has no alternatives. Will the real murderer be discovered before it's too late?

"Dragons in Our Midst" - A new series by Bryan Davis for pre-teens and young adults. Along with a unique blend of fantasy and real life, the stories deliver action, danger, and inspiration through the adventures of two young teens, Billy Bannister and Bonnie Silver:

Raising Dragons (Book 1) - The kids at school call Billy "Dragon Breath" for good reason - his breath is awful! Not the normal morning-mouth bad, but a hot-as-fire, "be careful you don't get burned" bad! Trouble erupts when his hot breath sets off the fire sprinkler in the boys' restroom at school, and his parents realize they've kept their secret for too long. When Billy finally learns his father was once a dragon, he feels betrayed, lost, alien . . . then, his father reverts to his former dragon form and what follows brings danger,

adventure and eventually, a bonding of father and son.

The Candlestone (Book 2) - Bonnie, an orphan, tries to find a home, someone to love her even though she feels like a freak because of a body feature she calls a deformity - her dragon wings, inherited from her now dead dragon mother. She and Billy form an unusual partnership, as they explore a series of mysteries, face their greatest fears, and learn to use their strengths as they battle powerful foes, ancient fiends from times long past, and try to escape from the horrific, crystal-line tomb of The Candlestone.

If these first two books are popular with our teens, I will order more in the series.

Look for this material next week on the library cart.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR BEN

What If...?

What would the world look like if everybody cared or forgave or served? What would it look like? Take a moment and think about it. Envision a different reality from what you see in the world. What would it look like?

It's a question that can lift our imaginations to see the world from God's perspective. This will be our goal as the YPS (high school youth) head to our spiritual retreat next weekend. Over the weekend of Jan. 8-9, we'll be heading to Camp Beechpoint in Allegan to consider this question. What if? What if everybody cared? How would the world look? What if everybody forgave? How much anger and violence would be nullified? What if everybody served like Jesus served? What if?

We'll be considering what the Bible has to say to us as believers as those called to be examples to these "what if" questions. What if all Christians cared, forgave, and served? What effect might that have on the world?

This year the YPS group has been thinking about "living life to the brim." We've been considering what it means to live a full life from a biblical perspective. The problems in our world come because people are not living fully in Christ. The retreat will challenge us to seek that life of fullness that truly brings glory to God and shows the world a better way.

As the high schoolers consider this question, consider it for yourself in this New Year. At what capacity are you caring, forgiving, and serving? What changes could come in your life if you engaged the life of faith more fully? What changes could come in other people's lives if you engaged the life of faith more fully?

What if everyone _____? You fill in the blank and think about it for yourself and your family. Lift your imagination up a little and gain a little vision from God on what he's calling you to do.

The Gift of Community

As we begin this New Year, I simply want to say thanks for the community that you are. It is wonderful to observe a church community when it works wells. It is defined by gracious relationships, generous hearts, servant-mindedness, concern for those in hardship, and joyous hearts filled with praise and laughter. What a joy to experience that here! Thank you for being a community that welcomes people into its fold, especially those desperate for grace. Thank you for being generous with your time, money, and gifts. Thank you being willing to serve in many different capacities, one large to small. Thank you for holding one another up in weak times. Thank you for lifting your voices in praise and filling this building with good conversation and laughter. Thank you for your continued encouragement for myself and my family. We know we are loved and that is a huge blessing! Thank you.

As we go into this New Year, let us continue to be that church that is defined by graciousness, generosity, servant-mindedness, concern, and joyfulness. And let us grow in all of that as well. Be assured that God is working here—in big and little ways. Take joy in that and find strength in that.

Pastor Ben

Don't Miss Your Seat at the Table

Join us in rediscovering the heart of the Christian faith this Lent.

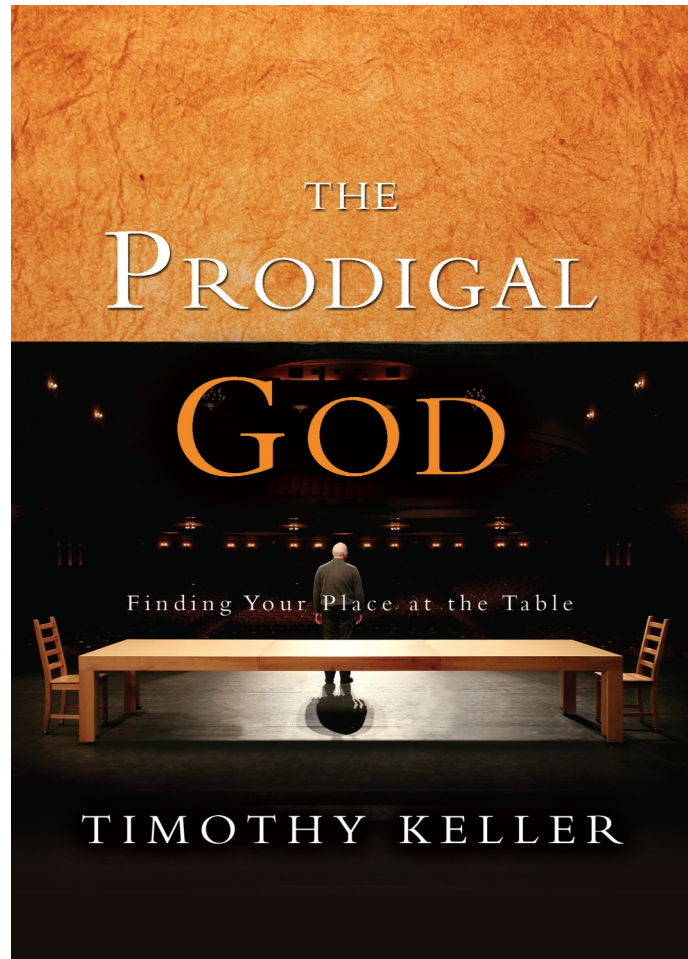
"One son kept the rules religiously. One son broke them all. One father loved them both beyond anything they could ever imagine. *The Prodigal God* is a dramatic teaching film, sermon series and group study resource based on Jesus' great parable – The Prodigal Son."

During the Lenten season this year, starting in March, we will be studying the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son. We will be guided by Rev. Tim Keller's powerful and engaging book, *The Prodigal God*.

In a similar format as a *40 Days of Purpose* campaign, we will be purchasing study materials and offering small group opportunities so that we might grow as a church in the wonderful story of God's grace.

Look for more information upcoming.

Don't miss your seat at the table!



prod•i•gal – adjective

1. recklessly extravagant
2. giving or yielding
profusely; lavishly
abundant
3. having spent everything





Deacon's Minutes - November 30, 2010

November Count:

Comstock Ministries	\$13,637.76
Christian Education	1,643.00
Missions	1,018.12
Kzoo Gospel Mission	245.00
CRWRC World Hunger	386.00
Chaplain Ministries	211.15
CRWRC	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$17,191.13

Offering Schedule for January

1/2	AM- Comstock Ministries/ Christian Ed.	PM-Missions
1/9	AM- Comstock Ministries/ Christian Ed.	PM- Bible League
1/16	AM- Comstock Ministries/ Christian Ed.	PM-Youth Unlimited
1/23	AM- Comstock Ministries/ Christian Ed.	PM-Bethany Christian Services
1/30	AM- Comstock Ministries/ Christian Ed.	PM- Calvinist Cadet Corp.

Council Notes

1. The Deacons, after a couple months of discussion, recommended to council that the church fiscal year be changed to the calendar year beginning in January 2012. The recommendation was approved.
2. The Worship Leadership Team and Properties Team presented a recommendation for an updating of the Sound System. The recommendation was approved pending congregational approval. A congregational meeting was scheduled for January 2, 2011 following the morning service.
3. Todd Triemstra will be installed as elder on January 2 AM.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will not be meeting in January. We will start again on February 2, studying "Jonah".



Join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of February and March.

Ladies of all ages are invited to join us on the first and third Wednesday at 9:30 AM. A sign up sheet and study books are on the back table. Jonah is a 4-lesson study that will take us through

March. It is part of the Infuse Bible Study, new from Faith Alive. You can read more about this Bible study in the latest Banner.

WHEN GOD WRITES YOUR STORY

2 CORINTHIANS 3:3A

Cornerstone University

Presents the 6th Annual

Women's Leadership Conference

February 4-5, 2011



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 4

6 p.m.Registration
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Praise and Worship with Francis Drost
Featured Speaker: Carol Kent

Saturday, Feb. 5

9 a.m. Praise and Worship with Francis Drost
Featured Speaker: Carol Kent
10:45 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m. Workshop: Session 1
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:15 p.m. Workshop: Session 2
2:15 p.m. Break
2:30 p.m. Woman of Influence Presentation
Praise and Worship with Francis Drost
Featured Speaker: Carol Kent

REGISTRATION

Fee
Fee includes light coffee refreshments and lunch on Saturday
\$65/person
Students - \$35/student (ID required)

How to Register

Register online at www.cornerstone.edu/wlc or call Liz Wheeler at 616.222.1443

Having trouble registering online?

Call Liz Wheeler
at 616.222.1443 for alternative registration options.

Let Your Light Shine!

Make this colorful candleholder as a reminder to *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

(Matthew 5:16, NRSV).

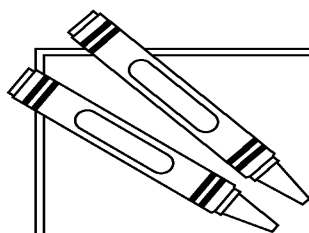
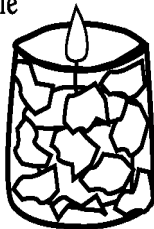
What you need:

- colored tissue paper
- clean empty jar (baby food or jam jar) or a votive candleholder
- votive candle or any small candle to fit inside the jar
- white glue
- paint brush

How to do it:

(Note: Be sure to get an adult's permission first.)

1. Tear the tissue paper into small pieces.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue on a small section on the outside of the jar.
3. Stick some pieces of tissue paper onto the glued sections. The pieces can overlap.
4. Spread another thin layer of glue over the tissue paper pieces.
5. Repeat steps 2, 3 and 4 until the entire jar is covered. Let it dry.
6. Place a candle inside your "stained-glass" jar.
7. Ask a parent or an adult to light the candle for you.
8. Try to memorize Matthew 5:16 and recite it whenever you see your candle lit. Think about how you are going to "*let your light shine*" through good works.



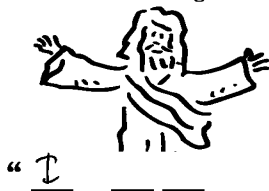
Just for KIDS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we begin a new calendar year, let us always remember who we should follow in this world.

Directions:

1. Start at the circled letter "I." Follow the direction of the arrow and circle every other letter until you have gone around the world one time.
2. Start at the circled letter "T" again, and write down the circled letters on the blank lines below.
3. Beginning at the *W, write the letters or numbers that are not circled until you have gone around the world again. Read the message.



Answers: "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE." JOHN 8:12, NIV

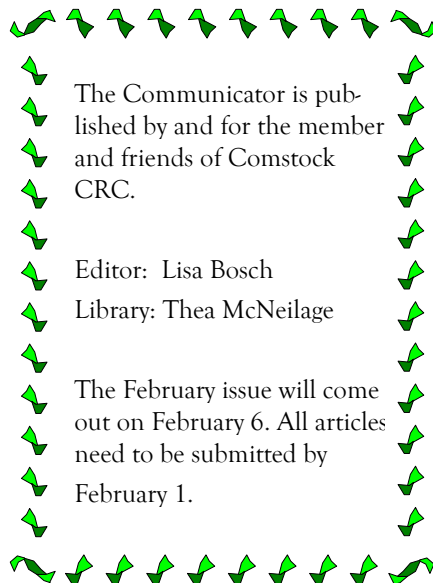


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 4 **Andy Selles**
- 6 **Lisa Bosch (44)**
- 11 **Jo Dusseljee**
Wanda Schaap
- 12 **Sean Brower**
- 13 **Edna Sipsma**
- 14 **Cindy Amos**
Mark Smit
- 16 **Tyler Meier**
- 19 **Stella Doorn**
- 22 **Greg Nowak**
- 26 **Lily Hulst**

Happy Anniversary

- 01/6/06 **Dale & Deb**
Cramer
- 01/25/46 **Art & Eleanor**
Meints



January Schedules

NURSERY

- | <u>AM</u> | <u>PM</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 Dwain & Becky Cramer | Molly Selles |
| 9 Jack & Joanne Karsten | Karen Triemstra |
| 16 Roger & Chris Selles | Cindy Amos |
| 23 Rachel Slager & Morgan French | Allison Bosch |
| 30 Becky Smith & Amanda DeBruyn | Leah Brower |

OFFERINGS

- | <u>AM</u> | <u>PM</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed. | Missions |
| 9 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed. | Bible League |
| 16 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed. | Youth Unlimited |
| 23 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed. | Bethany Christian Serv. |
| 30 Comstock Ministries/Chr. Ed. | Calvinist Cadet Corp. |

WELCOME CENTER

- 2 Greg & Sueann Nowak
- 9 Mark & Julie Smit
- 16 Mike & Karen Tiesman
- 23 Mike & Margaret Harris
- 30 Dwain & Becky Cramer

LIBRARIANS

- 2 Thea McNeilage
- 9/16 Grace Slager
- 23/30 Esther Post

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

- 9 Cindy Amos & Sarah Gano
- 16 Jan Larkin & Morgan French
- 23 Jan Larkin & Abigail Triemstra
- 30 Katie Lee & Molly Selles

GREETERS

- AM - Jo Dusseljee & Kim Terpstra
- PM - Walt & Muriel Cramer

SONG SERVICE

- 9 Mark Smit
- 16 Scott Brower
- 30 Rod Linders

TECH TEAM

- 9/30 Scott & Seth Brower
- 16 Jim & Tina Slager
- 23 Mark & Matt Terpstra

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 7 pm Vision Team	5 6:30 pm GEMS & Cadets	6 1 pm Power in Prayer	7	8 11 am YPS leave for overnight retreat
9	10	11 7 pm Council	12	13 1 pm Power in Prayer	14	15
16	17 7 pm Fellowship Team	18	19 6:30 pm GEMS & Cadets	20 1 pm Power in Prayer	21	22
23 6:15 pm YPS 8 pm Bethany Benefit Concert	24	25 5 pm Booster Supper	26	27 1 pm Power in Prayer	28	29 Hymns of Hope
30	31 7:30 pm Education Team					